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Raider Says Red Troops, Missiles Plentiful in Cuba

Memphis Visitor Tells of Raids
Made on Island Since Invasion

By JAMES R. REID, Press-Scimitar Staff Writer

Russian missiles and some 14,000 or 15,000 Russian troops are still in Cuba, according to a man who says he has been on six raids on Castro's island since the Bay of Pigs invasion.

Jerry Buchanan, 24, a U. S. citizen from Miami now in Memphis, said his missions were to sabotage oil refineries or take medical supplies and weapons to the Cuban underground.

Moving to Memphis after being asked by the Central Intelligence Agency to leave Florida, Buchanan said he is staying with friends and in hotels and is establishing contact with Cuban refugee families here. Pulling from his wallet an identification card as a member of the Anti-Communist International Brigade, he told The Press-Scimitar:

In on Six Hits

"I have been on six 'hits' in side Cuba since the Bay of Pigs invasion failed. That invasion failed for two reasons: First, the air support promised by the Eisenhower administration did not come thru. Second, the rebel radio station set up to alert the Cuban underground was destroyed the night before the invasion by agents of the Central Intelligence Agency . . .

"Cuba has between 14,000 and 15,000 Russian troops there now . . . Cuba still has missiles, despite what the U. S. may want to believe. I have been told by Cubans coming out of the country that the missiles are hidden in mountain caves."

Buchanan estimated that 90 per cent of Cuban people are against Castro. His last offensive thrust to help them was from U. S. territory with 16 Cubans aboard the boat *Violene III*, he reported.



CASTRO FIGHTER — Jerry Buchanan, who reports he has six raids on Cuba to his credit

British Waiting

Castro spies learned of this mission and informed American authorities who have sought to suppress such efforts, Buchanan continued. He related that the British were waiting for the craft in the Bahamas, searched it, rendered ineffective some of the weapons and released the boat and crew.

The *Violene III* was trailed by U. S. Coast Guard boats and *spj* cover until it was forced to Florida, Buchanan said. Adding that some weapons and ammunition had been hidden from the boarding party, he said this material is now safely cached and "we hope to pick it up and continue our fight."

Buchanan said he plans to return to Florida this week.

Of the U. S. official attitude toward aiding the anti-Castro underground, Buchanan said: "I wish in the Kennedy administration."

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